

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 24, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1 - 27 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 1, 11, and 22 are independent. In this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 22 have been amended, no claims have been cancelled, and no claims have been added.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1-6, 11-14, and 22-27 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reddy (US Patent No. 6,215,459) in view of Gennetten (US Patent No. 6,812,907).

The disclosures of the cited art and the distinctions between them may be briefly summarized as follows:

Reddy describes a video controller for controlling at least two video displays and produces two different images on separate displays at the same time (see col. 3, lines 30-43 and lines 62-64, col. 4, lines 60-64, col. 7, lines 56-57). The purpose of this is to allow a "presentation display" on one display displayed to an audience while allowing at the same time speaker's notes or other information to be displayed on another display that only the presenter can see (please see col. 3, lines 30-43) or other situations where it would be useful to have two displays with different information. Reddy describes two alternative embodiments of the video controller, one for a system that uses displays that have the same resolution and the same refresh rate (Please see column 4, line 64 et. seq.) and one for a system that uses displays having

different resolutions, different refresh rates, or both. (Please see col. 4, line 56, et. seq.)

Genetten describes an electronic display with a plurality of independently operable segments, preferably an LCD panel in which the liquid crystal portion is one solid unsegmented unit and the backlight under the liquid crystal portion is segmented (please see column 7, lines 1-5). The purpose of the plurality of independently operable segments is so that power may be conserved by turning off unneeded portions of the display when only small amounts of data need to be displayed but retaining the ability to turn on the entire display when necessary to display large amounts of data. The method of construction of the display implies that the resolution and/or pixel sizes are the same for all independently operable segments.

Applicant's claimed invention, as described in independent claims 1, 11, and 22 comprises at least two physical display devices where each display device has a display area having the following characteristics: the first display area has a first display resolution and a first boundary, the second display area has a second display resolution different from the first display resolution and a second boundary. Each display device also has an associated image processor. The first and second display areas are so constructed and arranged such that when a *single* image is displayed on at least a portion of each of the first and second display areas utilizing the image information data supplied by the associated image processors the resulting displayed image appears to be substantially continuous to a viewer situated to view the image and the displayed resolution of the portion of the image displayed on the first display is different than the displayed resolution of the portion of the image displayed on the second display.

Neither Reddy nor Genetten teach or suggest at least two display devices where each display device has a display area with differing resolutions wherein when a *single* image is displayed across the display areas it appears substantially continuous to a viewer with the portions of the image on each of the display areas being displayed in different resolutions either explicitly or impliedly as claimed in claims 1, 11, and 22, nor are the features of the claimed invention inherently present.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

It is well settled that the prior art must enable one skilled in the art to make and use the apparatus or method and that obviousness also requires evidence that the prior art as a whole would have enabled someone of ordinary skill to practice the claimed invention.

Reddy teaches a controller for displaying different images across two separate devices but does not teach or suggest two display devices wherein when a single image is displayed across the display areas it appears to be substantially continuous to a viewer but the portions of the displayed image displayed on the different display devices are displayed in different resolutions, as the Office Action itself points out. The Office Action tries to

remedy this missing teaching by combining Reddy with Gennetten which describes a single LCD panel having independently operable segments. However, the combination of Reddy with Gennetten does not produce a system with two display devices wherein when a single image is displayed across the display areas it appears to be substantially continuous to a viewer but the portions of the displayed image displayed on the different display devices are displayed in different resolutions. As Reddy is concerned only with the simultaneous display of two separate images, using the output of Reddy to drive the independently operable segments of Gennetten will at best result in a concatenated display of two separate images not a single image displayed across two display areas which appears to be substantially continuous to a viewer but with the portions of the displayed image displayed on the different display areas displayed in different resolutions as in applicant's claimed invention.

Therefore, as the references either separately or together do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify the references to obtain applicant's claimed invention and there is no reasonable expectation of success. Applicant therefore believes that the claims 1, 11, and 22 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the rejection be removed.

Claims 2-5, 12-14, and 23-27 all include the limitations of and depend from now presumably allowable amended claims 1, 11, or 22 and are also believed to be in allowable condition for the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claims 1, 11, and 22.

Claims 7-10, 15, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reddy (US Patent No. 6,215,459) in view of Gennetten (US Patent No. 6,812,907) further in view of Ohzawa (US Patent number 6,803,884).

Reddy and Gennetten have been previously described above.

Ohzawa describes a compact, lightweight display system suitable for use as a head mounted or hand held display system. The display system, in the first embodiment uses three display surfaces of the same size (please see col. 3, lines 59-60) and an enlarging lens for enlarging the image on the central display surface (please see col. 3, lines 35- 43). The display is meant to be used by placing the system in front of the face of the observer with the central display surface placed directly in front of the eye of the observer (please see col. 3, lines 32-34). The observer cannot clearly see both the projection images from the central display and the projection images from either of the other displays; the projection image the observer is focused on is the image of the central display which is positioned at the true front (please see col. 4, lines 21-36).

Applicant's claimed invention, as described in dependent claims 7-10, 15, and 17-21 comprises at least three physical display devices where each display device has a display area having the following characteristics: the first display area has a first display resolution and a first boundary, the second display area has a second display resolution and a second boundary, the third display area has a third display resolution and a third boundary where at least one of the display resolutions is different from at least one other of the display resolutions. Each display device also has an associated image processor. The display areas are so constructed and arranged such that when a *single*

image is displayed on at least a portion of each of the display areas utilizing the image information data supplied by the associated image processors the resulting displayed image appears to be substantially continuous to a viewer situated to view the image and the displayed resolution of the portion of the image displayed on one display is different than the displayed resolution of the portion of the image displayed on the other display. A variety of configurations are claimed.

It is well settled that the prior art must enable one skilled in the art to make and use the apparatus or method and that obviousness also requires evidence that the prior art as a whole would have enabled someone of ordinary skill to practice the claimed invention. As discussed above the combination of Reddy and Gennetten does not teach or suggest two display devices wherein each display device has a display area with different resolutions and different boundaries and wherein when one or more images are displayed across the display areas they appear to be substantially continuous to a viewer but the portions of the displayed image displayed on the different display area are displayed in different resolutions. Neither does Ohzawa remedy the lack of teaching in Reddy and Gennetten or teach or suggest three or more display devices wherein each display device has a display area with different resolutions and different boundaries and wherein when one or more images are displayed across the display areas they appear to be substantially continuous to a viewer but the portions of the displayed image displayed on the different display area are displayed in different resolutions. Specifically, in Ohzawa, the display surfaces of the three or more display devices are the same. The center display surface has an enlarging lens, but as the observer can not clearly see the additional display surfaces, Ohzawa does not worry about discontinuities in the image. If the observer wishes to clearly see the image on one of the other display surfaces, the

observer turns his or her head such that the detected movement causes the image to shift onto the central display surface (please see col. 4, lines 37-43)

Therefore, as the references either separately or together do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify the references to obtain applicant's claimed invention and there is no reasonable expectation of success. Applicant therefore believes that the claims 7-10, 15, and 17-21 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the rejection be removed.

Reconsideration/Admittance Requested

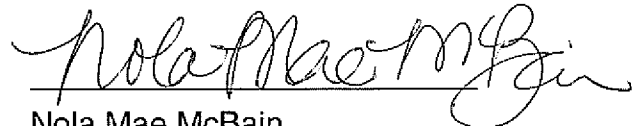
In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited.

Fee Authorization And Extension Of Time Statement

A three month extension of time is believed to be required for this amendment, however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Nola Mae McBain, at Telephone Number 650-812-4264, Palo Alto, California.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nola Mae McBain", written over a horizontal line.

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Date: May 23, 2007